

MINUTES

Wednesday, April 19, 2006

State Planning Project for the Uninsured Advisory Council Meeting

Michigan Manufacturers Association
620 S. Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933

Members Present: Chris Allen, Detroit-Wayne County Health Authority; Elaine Beane, Michigan Public Health Institute (ex-officio member); William Black, Michigan Teamsters Joint Council #43; Debra Brinson, School-Community Health Alliance; Paul Duguay, Michigan Association of Health Plans; Rob Fowler, Small Business Association of Michigan; Larry Horwitz, Economic Alliance; Mary Ellen Howard, Free Clinics of Michigan; Jan Hudson, Michigan League for Human Services; Kevin Kelly, Michigan State Medical Society; Marjorie Mitchell, MI Universal Health Care Action Network; Joan Moiles, Department of Labor and Economic Growth; Kevin Seitz, BCBSM; Amy Shaw, Michigan Manufacturer's Association; Kimberly Singh, Michigan Association for Local Public Health; Stephen Skorcz, Greater Flint Health Coalition; Sebastian Wade, Detroit Regional Chamber; Lody Zwarenstyn, Alliance for Health.

Alternates Present: Patience Drake-Rosenbaum, Michigan Consumer Health Coalition for Beverley McDonald; Sarah Fink, Michigan Health & Hospital Association for Spencer Johnson; Dennis Paradis, Michigan Osteopathic Association for Susan Sevensma; Bob Stampfly, MSU Institute for Health Care Studies for Denise Holmes; Hollis Turnham for Steve Gools at AARP of Michigan; Jane Zwiers, Free Clinics of Michigan.

Members Absent: Vernice Davis Anthony, Greater Detroit Area Health Council; Jan Christensen, MDCH; Marge Faville, SEIU Local #79; Colette Scrimger, Access to Care Community Coalition; Kim Sibilsky, Michigan Primary Care Association.

Others Present: Gary Benjamin, Michigan Legal Services/Michigan UHCAN; Nick Ciaramitaro, Michigan AFSCME Council 25; Greg Cline, Trinity Health; Eileen Ellis, Health Management Associates; Del Malloch, Jackson Health Plan Corp-3-Share; Robert Meeker, Spectrum Health System; Michelle Munson-McCorry, Complete Compassionate Care; Rick Nowakowski, Wayne County Four Star; Valerie Przywara, Henry Ford Health System; Carolyn Weiner, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan; Scott Woods, Priority Health.

MDCH Staff: Lonnie Barnett, Ken Miller, Angela Awrey, Umbrin Ateequi, Ellen Speckman-Randall, Bill Hart, and Robert Esdale.

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Co-chairperson Kevin Seitz called the meeting to order and welcomed all attendees. Introductions were made around the room.
- II. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved by consensus.
- III. **Approval of minutes from 3/15 meeting:** The 3/15/06 minutes were approved by consensus.
- IV. **Project Update**
 - a. Timeline – (handout – “Timeline for SPG Project for Uninsured 2006”)
 - b. Who are the Uninsured? – (Handout – “Individuals Covered Under Expansion Strategy”)
 - c. Report Outline – (handout – “Advisory Council Report Outline”)

Ellen Speckman-Randall reviewed all three documents with the Advisory Council. There was discussion on the “Advisory Council Report Outline”.

Members requested that the green light issues be emailed by May 1st. It was requested that a dissemination plan for the Advisory Council's recommendations be developed.

The Advisory Council requested information as to how they can best provide input into Michigan First. Lonnie Barnett indicated that Paul Reinhart and Steve Fitton will be attending a future meeting to update the Advisory Council about Michigan First and discuss how the Council can be involved.

Kevin Seitz offered the AHCC as an avenue through which the Council could provide input. The Department of Community Health needs to clarify its expectations of the Advisory Council relative to Michigan First.

V. Discussion and Action

- a. Resolution of Yellow Light Issues (Updated "Status of Coverage Expansion Concepts" – Green Light handout): Yellow light issues will go to the successor group. Some felt that the yellow light issues should be included in the report; others disagreed. There will be further discussion regarding this issue. It was agreed that the yellow light issues should be available to provide direction to the next group.
 1. Full Enrollment: Hollis Turnham indicated that there should be an education component to this recommendation. It is critical that information be made available about the benefits of having health insurance, as well as about the disadvantages of being uninsured. The Advisory Council agreed to move this item to the green light section, with the addition of an educational component.
 2. Personal Responsibility: It was agreed that this should be kept in the yellow light section. Patience Drake-Rosenbaum will redraft this section and bring it back to the May meeting.
 3. Medicaid: Under this section it is necessary that we clearly differentiate between Medicaid and Michigan First. Michigan First is not a Medicaid expansion. It was agreed that this item would be redrafted to make this clear and move it into the green light section. There was also a request to include reference to the fact that low Medicaid provider reimbursement rates create access to care problems for Medicaid recipients.
 4. Employers and Dependent Coverage: Everyone agreed to use "encouraged" rather than "required". It was also agreed that this section should include an explanation that participation in an employer pool could reduce the cost of coverage and could provide workers with a tax advantage since insurance could be purchased with pre-tax dollars. Additionally, it should state that this recommendation would not require an employer contribution and that it wouldn't increase their costs. This recommendation could be implemented with an educational campaign. Emphasis needs to be put on providing incentives, as encouragement for employers to offer dependent coverage with or without a contribution. This item was moved to the green light section with these changes.
 5. Insurance Companies and Young Adults Losing Eligibility as a Dependent: The Advisory Council agreed to use "encouraged" rather than "required" for this item as well and move it into the green light section.
 6. Insurance Companies and Emerging Individual Market: The Advisory Council agreed to use "encouraged" and move it to the green light section.

7. Take-up Child-only and Young Adult Policies: The Advisory Council suggested that “take-up” be replaced with a term more easily understandable to the lay person. The council agreed to move this item into the green light section.
8. College Students: There was consensus that students should be encouraged to purchase insurance and universities should be encouraged to offer and promote the purchase of insurance by students. It was thought that this item should include all students, not just full-time students.

It was requested that Yellow Light items 4 through 8, which all were approved to become Green Light items, be integrated into one or two Green Light statements, rather than remain as separate statements.

- b. Action on State Health Project (handout): Spencer Johnson, Sarah Fink, Marjorie Mitchell, Rob Fowler, and DCH staff had a meeting to discuss issues related to the State Health Project and agreed upon the distributed concept paper. The State Health Project would be self appointed and created; not created by the legislature. It was suggested that it should be 501(C)3 rather than a (C)6 and it should have broad geographic and demographic representation.

The Advisory Council needs to determine whether the Project would be a leadership group or a working group. It was suggested that the focus be on access to health insurance for all Michigan residents, and not just the uninsured. Under issues to address, we should add that we need to learn from other countries. The Advisory Council likes the basic concepts in the paper but feels another name is needed since “Project” connotes a short-term endeavor.

VI. Member and Project Updates

A few members provided brief announcements on upcoming activities.

VII. Public Comment: None

VIII. Other Business/Meeting Evaluation

- a. Reschedule the date of the June meeting: The June 21st meeting has been rescheduled for the Monday, June 19th. Location is TBD. Information about the specifics of the meeting will be sent to members.

IX. Adjourn

Next Meetings:	May 24, 2006 (10am to 4pm) Michigan Manufacturers Assn.	June 19, 2006 (10am to 4pm) TBD
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